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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,336	10/24/2005	Yukifumi Machida	05167/LH	8637

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EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/529,336

Applicant(s)

MACHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Vladimir Imas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/24/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the numerals have to be in parenthesis. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nimura et al. (US 2002/0142655).

Regarding claim 1, Nimura et al., fig. 1-12, discloses an electrical connector comprising a housing 30 accommodating connecting terminals 20 connected to distal ends of electric wires 25, the housing including locking arms 34 for retaining the connecting terminals within the housing not to remove from a backside of the housing, and a front holder 50 inserted into a front portion of the housing such that the locking arms are urged against the connecting terminals to enhance a locking force of the locking arms, characterized in that the front holder is movable with respect to the housing between a first position and a second position in a direction perpendicular to an axial line of the housing; in the first position of the front holder, terminal inserting holes 56 formed in the front housing are aligned with axial lines of the connecting terminals installed within the housing such that upon engaging a cooperating housing with the

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housing, an electrical connection between the connecting terminals installed within the housing and associated connecting terminals installed within the cooperating housing is attained; and in said second position of the front holder, the terminal inserting holes are shifted out of the axial lines of the connecting terminals installed within the housing and arm operating holes 56 formed in the front holder are aligned with the locking arms.

Regarding claim 4, Nimura et al. discloses the an electrical connector comprising a housing accommodating connecting terminals connected to distal ends of electric wires, said housing including locking arms for retaining the connecting terminals not to remove from a backside of the housing, and a front holder inserted into a front portion of the housing such that the locking arms are urged against the connecting terminals to enhance a locking force of the locking arms, characterized in that said front holder is movable with respect to the housing between a first position and a second position in a direction perpendicular to an axial line of the housing; in the first position of the front holder, a cooperating housing is engaged with the housing to establish an electrical connection between the connecting terminals installed with the housing and associated connecting terminals installed within the cooperating housing; and the front holder includes terminal pushing portions 51 for pushing the connecting terminals backward during movement of the front holder from the second position into the first position such that a space is not formed between the locking arms and the connecting terminals in an axial direction.

Regarding claim 6, Nimura et al. discloses in the first position, the front holder is locked with respect to the housing.

Regarding claim 7, Nimura et al. discloses in the second position, the front holder is temporally locked with respect to the housing.

Regarding claim 8, Nimura et al. discloses the first and second positions of the front holder relative to the housing are aligned in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the connecting terminals and locking arms are arranged.

Regarding claim 9, Nimura et al. discloses the first and second positions of the front holder relative to the housing are aligned in a direction in which said connecting terminals and locking arms are arranged.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nimura et al. in view of Hasebe (2004/0180576).

Regarding claim 2, Nimura et al. discloses all the limitations except the arm pushing portions. Hasebe, fig. 1, discloses the arm pushing portions 41a. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Nimura's et al. front holder with Hasebe's pushing portions for releasing the locking lances in the second position of the front holder.

Regarding claim 3, Hasebe discloses the arm pushing portions are formed as a

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projection, and the arm pushing portions are moved on a side of the locking arms when the front holder is moved from the second position into the first position.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claim 5 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 4, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Prior Art does not disclose the terminal pushing portions includes inclined portions for pushing said connecting terminals gradually.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VI  
Examiner  
Vladimir Imas  
03/31/2006

*TC Patel*  
TULSIDAS C. PATEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER